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MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

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Number 11

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

THE POLITICAL ACTION Coalition for the Environment has endorsed three candidates for election to three very important local governing agencies. At least two of these people—Mary Jefferds and Jean Siri—are well-known to many Audubon members. The third, Mr. Roy Nakadegawa, has a solid background in traffic engineering and service on local commissions. He will challenge Mr. Claude Daughtry, the appointed incumbent in ward one of the A.C. Transit District.

Mary Jefferds is challenging incumbent director Paul Harberts for his seat on the board of the East Bay Regional Park District. The contested ward includes Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, Emeryville, and a small piece of Oakland.

Jean Siri is seeking a position on the board of directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). One of her objectives, if elected, would be to commit EBMUD to a program of solid waste recycling and waste water reclamation for industrial use.

While passing through Owens Valley on our recent vacation we called on the Bishop office of the Dept. of Fish and Game to inquire into the current Tule Elk situation. A young game management specialist who is working on the local elk problems was most helpful. The calf increase this year was below normal, and only 293 elk were counted in the summer census; but he thought 30 to 40 elk may have been overlooked.

Just below Big Pine off Highway 395, Fish and Game and co-operative agencies have established a "wildlife lookout" for motorists, with plaques giving some elk history and habits. However, the herd of some 50 elk occupying this part of their range was subsisting this summer mainly on a large field of alfalfa along the highway, which they entered around sundown to spend the night. Shortly after daylight they moved out to hiding places in the willows to rest and ruminate.

Near vacation's end, a four hour condor watch atop Mt. Pinos off the Ridge Route having proved fruitless, we decided to venture into Yosemite Valley on the assumption the mad summer mob had returned to work and to school. They had: camping spaces abounded, and there were empty seats on the free shuttle busses that have helped so much to reduce the "automania" that once imperiled the valley environment. There were many naturalist program offerings through September, and

we were impressed by the emphasis on ecology and environment in the announcements of guided walks and evening programs.

A harsh shock awaited us in the new Visitor Center, however. It is an imposing structure and portrays vividly the history, geology, and a bit of the Indian past of Yosemite. But, the "birds, the bees and the trees" (and the mammals and the significant panorama of life zones) are no longer shown! We'll have more on this when we can consult with National Park Service friends on this new development.

The State Supreme Court's 6-1 ruling Sept. 21 in the Mammoth Lakes Case may overturn many an appellation in private land developments in California. It will require an environmental impact statement before developments can be approved by local bodies and will open avenues for suits by environmental and conservation groups. Look for lots of thunder and lightning to accompany this development!

PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman* (536-4120)

NOVEMBER GGAS MEETING

THIS PAST SUMMER, George Peyton, former GGAS vice president, led a group of 16 people, half of whom were Audubon members, on a bird and ecology safari through Kenya and Tanzania. They traveled 2,000 miles and saw many birds and animals. George added 250 new birds to his life list and many new slides to his collection. He will share these with us at the November general meeting in a one-hour slide show and talk. The meeting will be held at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on Thursday, November 9, at 7:30 P.M.

PETER WHITE, *Program Chairman* (782-3505)

BENEFIT EXHIBIT FOR CONSERVANCY

WHEATLEY ALLEN will bring his bird sculptures to Oakland on November 22 for a two-week exhibit and benefit sale for the Nature Conservancy's Northern California chapter. They will be shown at the Kaiser Center, 300 Lakeside Drive. The Mendocino artist held a similar exhibit and sale about two years ago for the benefit of Audubon Canyon Ranch. His beautiful wood sculptures generated enough money to buy an acre for the ranch. Last year, Governor Reagan commissioned Wheatley Allen to carve a California Valley Quail as a special gift for Emperor Hirohito. The Nature Conservancy will honor Mr. Allen with a reception from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. on November 29 in the Kaiser Center in Oakland.

FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 5. ALUM ROCK PARK in the hills east of San Jose. Approach by way of U.S. 101, exit at Alum Rock Avenue, and drive five miles east to the park entrance. DO NOT GO THROUGH THE ENTRANCE. Instead, turn left and drive for a few hundred yards to the large parking lot overlooking the picnic area. Meet at **9 A.M.** Bring lunch. Leader: Ted Chandik (493-5330)

Saturday, November 11. BODEGA BAY in Sonoma County. Take 101 north, exit at Petaluma at the Bodega Bay sign, turn left, proceed through Petaluma to the coast, and meet in the town of Bodega Bay at the Tides restaurant at **9:30 A.M.** Leader: George Peyton Jr. (531-5588)

Wednesday, November 15. RODEO LAGOON. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge, exit at Alexander St. just past the north end of the bridge, and turn left in about one-eighth mile. Go through the tunnel and wait in the parking lot at the other end. Meet at **9 A.M.** Leader: Mrs. Hubert Fry (731-2874)

Sunday, November 19. LIMANTOUR ESTERO. Meet at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters in Olema at **9 A.M.** We will caravan to Limantour. Leader: S.S. Whitehead (933-3390)

Sunday, November 26. KIRBY COVE. Meet at the east end of the Fort Cronkite tunnel (see RODEO LAGOON directions above. **DO NOT GO THROUGH TUNNEL.** We will caravan to the starting point, leaving promptly at **9 A.M.** Be prepared to walk a mile or more.

Thursday, November 9. TILDEN PARK (Meet at the Little Farm).

Wednesday, November 29. GOLDEN GATE PARK (Meet at the Academy of Sciences). For both trips, meet at **9 A.M.** and choose your own leader. Lunch optional.

Sunday, December 3. LAKE HENNESSEY (Conn Dam) in Napa County. Drive to the town of Napa. Take the Trancas St. exit off the freeway that runs north through the valley. Drive east for one mile to the Silverado Trail. Meet at **8:30 A.M.** We will bird at the bridge for one-half hour. We will caravan to the lake at **9 A.M.** sharp. Leader: Lawrence Curl (939-5841).

Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10. WILLOWS and GRIDLEY. Meet at **9 A.M.**, Saturday morning at the **Sacramento Wildlife Refuge** seven miles south of Willows. From the Bay Area, take Interstate 80 east and Interstate 5 north. The entrance to the refuge is on old U.S. 99. On **Sunday** morning, meet at **9 A.M.** at the **Gray Lodge Waterfowl Refuge**. Approach by way of U.S. 99 and follow signs out of Live Oak or Gridley. **MAKE OVERNIGHT RESERVATIONS NOW** (We are competing with the hunters) at Pacific Motel, box 235, Gridley 95948; Markay's, Highway 99, Gridley 95948; or Buckner's, 99E, Biggs, Calif. Send deposit and mention Audubon. If you wish to camp, go to the Colusa-Sacramento River campground just one-half mile out of Colusa. Fee: \$1.50 per night. Dinner Saturday night will be at Western Smorgy in Gridley (all you can eat for \$1.99). They will also prepare a box lunch on request. Leader: Harry Adamson (283-2164).

PAT TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS REPORTS

Golden Gate Park, September 9, 1972. A group of 25 people turned out for the long trek from the fuehsia gardens to the beach. Six walked the entire distance. In and around the fuehsia gardens were Wilson's Warblers, Western Wood Peewee, a female Western Tanager, Solitary Vireo, and both Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds. An Acorn Woodpecker was also seen, a first for Golden Gate Park. In the arboretum were Warbling Vireos and a Western Flycatcher, and a flock of Townsend's Warblers were seen on Strawberry Hill. Wood Ducks were observed on both Lloyd's Lake and the Chain of Lakes. There was also a lone Northern Phalarope. At the beach were Brown Pelicans, Heerman's Gulls, and thousands of Sooty Shearwaters. Total species: 42.

Coyote Hills, September 17, 1972. As usual, Coyote Hills produced many species, including Burrowing Owls (even an albinistic one), a Barn Owl, a Great-horned Owl, many White-tailed Kites, and Marsh Hawks. A Virginia Rail was heard but not seen. On the salt ponds were great flocks of avocets and dowitchers, a few Black-necked Stilts and Northern Phalaropes, Marbled Godwits, and Greater Yellowlegs. A Yellow Warbler was seen in the willows, and a Hermit Warbler in the pines. Total species: 64.

Alameda South Shore. About 50 people turned out for this trip and were rewarded with a Pectoral Sandpiper, which was a life-bird for many. They also saw a fine display of terns—Forster's, Caspian, and Elegant. There was a large flock of Snowy Plovers clustered in the sand, a few Semipalmated Plovers, two Ruddy Turnstones, and a few Long-billed Curlews mixed in with the Marbled Godwits. After lunch, the group was invited to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers, who gave an informative illustrated talk about the problems of beach erosion in Alameda.

Monterey boat trip, September 23. Two boatloads of birders enjoyed a fine trip under the capable leadership of Alan Baldridge of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. The group saw an extraordinary number of petrels, including 3,700 Ashy Petrels, 600 Black Petrels, one Wilson's Petrel, and three Least Petrels. The group also saw one Skua, 45 Pomarine Jaegers, and five Xantus's Murrelets. However, there were fewer alcaids, shearwaters, gulls, and terns than usual. The group also saw eight white-sided dolphins, four Dall porpoises and one elephant seal.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Black Brant, Sept. 30, one at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza—VH *et. al.*

Harlequin Duck, Sept. 3, five at Sea Ranch, Sonoma coast—R & LJ; Sept. 30, five males in bright plumage and one female, Ano Nuevo State Reserve—L & FN.

Ferruginous Hawk, Sept. 19, Pt. Reyes—WMP *et. al.*

Golden Eagle, Sept. 9, immature at Coyote Hills Regional Park—JR.

Peregrine Falcon, Sept. 16-17, Inverness—GB.

Pigeon Hawk, Sept. 26, male at Belmont Slough—FN; Oct. 1, Jewel Lake Tilden Park—JH.

Solitary Sandpiper, Aug. 20, two appeared at the mouth of the Carmel River—VR, DDeS, RS *et. al.*

Pectoral Sandpipers appeared in September at Limantour Estero, Rodco Lagoon, Richardson Bay Sanctuary, Alameda South Shore, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Coyote Hills, and (about two dozen) at Peseadero Creek.

Curlew Sandpiper, Sept. 16-17, Peseadero Creek—TC, FN *et. al.*

Skua, Sept. 16, two chasing terns at Bolinas Lagoon—BB, SS.

Franklin's Gull, Sept. 16-18, Palo Alto Yacht Harbor—TC *et. al.*

Spotted Owl, Sept. 24, two at Tomales Bay State Park—WMP *et. al.*

Yellow-shafted Flicker, Sept. 30, flying near Bay Bridge Toll Plaza—V & GH.

Eastern Kingbird, mid-Sept., Bodega Bay—BMcL.

Townsend's Solitaire, Sept. 30, Tilden Park—D & AP.

Bohemian Waxwing, Sept. 18-19, Inverness Motel—GB.

Black and White Warbler, Sept. 14, two at Mendoza Ranch, Point Reyes—WMP *et. al.*

Tennessee Warbler, male, Sept. 3, Lake Merced, San Francisco—NS.

Magnolia Warbler, Sept. 16, two at Battery Wallace, Rodeo Lagoon—WMP.

Black-throated Blue Warbler, Oct. 2, female at Lake Merced (in same place as last year on Sept. 18)—NS.

Blackpoll Warbler, Sept. 17, five at Mendoza Ranch—WMP, AM; one there on Sept. 19.

Pine Warbler, Sept. 29, male at Battery Wallace, Rodeo Lagoon—AP, KK.

Northern Waterthrush, Sept. 14-16, Jewel Lake, Tilden Park—SL, MJG; Aug. 20, mouth of the Carmel River—VR.

American Redstart, Aug. 29, Rodeo Lagoon and Pt. Reyes—NS, VR, GM, RS; Sept. 17, Pt. Reyes—WMP, AM; Oct. 2, Rodeo Lagoon—BF.

Evening Grosbeak, Sept. 28, 12 at Tilden Park Nature Area—AP.

Wildlife in the big city: Sept. 14, Osprey over Presidio Heights—SH; July to September, pair of California Quail at feeder on Russian Hill—PH.

Observers: C.R. Asher, Barbara Barton, Gerard Brady, Ted Chandik, Dave DeSante, Bud Fry, Mary Jane Greene, Steve Haber, Mrs. Peter Hockaday, John Hollis, Vi & George Homem, Robert & Lenore Johnsen, Karl Krause, Suzanne Luther, Georgiannc Manolis, Baron McLean, Alice Mericourt, Leroy & Fran Nelson, Dottie & Alan Pistorius, Wm. M. Pursell, Van Remsen, Jean Richmond, Shelby Smith, Rieh Stallcup, Naomi Svenningsen, Frances & Charles Townes, Peter Veitch, Gary Zamzow.

VI HOMEM, *Observations Editor* (339-1886)

PELICAN BANDER ASKS BIRDERS' AID

Since 1970 Dr. Daniel W. Anderson and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists have banded about 5,500 Brown Pelicans in the Gulf of California in order to 1) add to our knowledge of pelican movements, 2) determine plumage development with age, 3) study flock composition, and 4) learn about the sources of pollution affecting these birds. The marking system is as follows: 1970—plain bands; 1971—bands on left leg with or without attached leather strap and/or streamer; 1972—bands on the right leg with plastic streamers attached. If you see any of these birds, send as much of the following information as you can

to: Dr. Daniel W. Anderson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box C, Davis California 95616. The following information is pertinent:

1. Color of plastic streamer (dark green, light green, pink, orange, lavender, white, dark blue), or whether only a plain band or band with leather strap was seen. Which leg the band was on.

2. Date and location of sighting.

3. Whether pelican was alive, dead, sick, etc.

4. If you're really ambitious, additional information can include activity, number of other pelicans or birds in association, unusual behavior, movements, dates of arrival and departure, age-ratios, counts, etc. Also information on unmarked pelicans. Photos where possible.

BIRDING CALENDAR

WATERFOWL RETURN this month! For many birders this event is the highlight of the avian year in the Bay Area; for ducks, geese, and swans are among the brightest, wildest, most beautiful of birds. As a family, waterfowl are second to none for their beauty and grace, and as symbols of wildness, they hold a place in the imagination of men shared perhaps among birds only by the wide-ranging eagle. The Bay Area, because of its bays, sloughs, marshes, and rivers, enjoys a spectacular assortment of waterfowl. Thirty species winter here more or less regularly. Two or three more, while genuinely rare in this area, nevertheless are seen once or twice each year. In a single winter, with a little perseverance, you can see most or all of these species. But in order to do so, you have to know where to look. What ducks can you expect to see on a fresh water pond? A salt marsh? San Francisco Bay? The ocean? Where is the best place to see Black Brant? Whistling Swans? Barrow's Goldeneye?

This month's Birding Calendar will attempt to answer these questions for those readers who haven't waded around the Bay Area searching for ducks. What follows, then, is a Bay Area waterfowl catalogue, which should prove useful until sometime next spring. For each species listed, we have indicated its preferred habitat (F—fresh water marshes, ponds, and lakes; S—salt marshes, bays, open ocean; F/S—both fresh and salt water habitats) and how likely you are to see it on a typical visit to its preferred habitat (1—almost certain to see; 2—may or may not see; 3—good luck). In addition, for those species that seem to be limited to one or a few specific Bay Area locations, we have indicated the places you should try in order to see them.

Whistling Swan: F/2/ (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta—Woodbridge Road near Thornton and highway 4 east of Byron); *Canada Goose*: F/2 (East Bay reservoirs); *Black Brant*: S/2 (Limantour Estero); *White-fronted Goose*: F/2 (See locations for Whistling Swan); *Snow Goose*: F/2 (See locations for Whistling Swan); *Blue Goose*: F/3 (Rare, casual visitor to the Delta); *Ross' Goose*: F/3 (Rare in the Delta); *Mallard*: F/1; *Gadwall*: F/S/2; *Pintail*: S/1; *Green-winged Teal*: F/2; *Blue-winged Teal*: S/3 (Palo Alto Salt Marsh); *Cinnamon Teal*: F/S/2; *European Widgeon*: F/S/3; *American Widgeon*: F/S/2; *Shoveler*: F/1;

Wood Duck: F/3 (Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park; San Leandro Reservoir near Redwood Regional Park); *Redhead*: S/3; *Ring-necked Duck*: F/2; *Canvasback*: S/1; *Greater Scaup*: S/2; *Lesser Scaup*: S/1; *Common Goldeneye*: F/S/2; *Barrow's Goldeneye*: S/3 (Lake Merritt); *Bufflehead*: S/1; *Oldsquaw*: S/3; *Harlequin Ducks* S/3; *White-winged Scoter*: S/2; *Surf Scoter*: S/1; *Common Scoter*: S/3; *Ruddy Duck*: F/S/1; *Hooded Merganser*: F/S/3; *Common Merganser*: F/2; *Red-breasted Merganser*: S/1.

The following Bay Area locations are especially recommended for ducks: Bodega Bay, Tomales Bay, Limantour and Drake's Esteros, Drake's Bay, Tubbs Island, Rodco Lagoon, Kirby Cove, Richardsons' Bay, Bolinas Lagoon, Bon Tempe Lake and Lake Lagunitas, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Grizzly and Joice Islands, Berkeley-Emeryville waterfront, Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, Alameda South Shore and San Leandro Bay, Lake Merritt, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Jewel Lake (Tilden Park), Golden Gate Park lakes, Lake Merced, Palo Alto Salt Marsh, and Pescadero Marsh.

ZELLA CUSHMAN RETIRES

ZELLA CUSHMAN, our hard working, pleasant, and efficient membership secretary, retired in September and moved down the peninsula. I know that her many friends among GGAS members join the board and me in wishing Zella many happy years ahead.

In view of our large and growing membership (over 3,000) and the increasingly heavy correspondence and paper work, it seemed wise at this time to transfer the secretarial function to the GGAS office in Berkeley. This has now been done. Dottie Pistorius, whom many of you already know, has taken over the duties of membership secretary, in addition to her other Audubon work in the office. AILEEN PIERSON, *Membership Chairman*

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Mr. L. J. Cleasby	Charlotte Cooper
Mr. Maurice E. Salisbury	Charlotte Cooper
Dorothy Spurling	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Freitas

In addition, Mrs. Ruth H. Joost made a generous bequest to Audubon Canyon Ranch.

DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 94610 (451-6267)

GULL DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting material to the *Gull* for publication is the first of the month for the following month's issue. Thus, if you want something in the January *Gull*, you must have it to the editor by December 1. Except for regular features and columns, we cannot guarantee that any submitted material will be published; but we do welcome contributions from members having to do with either birds or conservation. If you have material to contribute, send it to Steve Whitney, 6718 Heartwood Dr., Oakland, Calif. 94611.



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THE GULL

November

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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BAAC Delegate	Mr. Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings—second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership—Local & National \$12 per year, (individual); \$15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$2 per year. High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.